

General Remarks.—On other dates circle readings only have been taken for position, but as the telescope has worked somewhat out of adjustment, these are of little value. This has rendered some of the star identifications uncertain.

No reductions have been made in the above measures for refraction, &c. This would be only for the small difference in declination, the telescope being fixed in R.A. for each observation.

In all cases the *brightest* available star has been used.

Telescope, $8\frac{1}{2}$ -inch reflector.

Further observations prevented by a succession of cloudy mornings.

Launceston:

1888, March 24.

Sextant Observations of Comet a 1888, extracted from the Meteorological Log, No. 7120, kept on board the barque 'Atlantic.' By Captain R. Belding.

(Communicated by Captain H. Toynbee.)

1888, March 10, 4 A.M., Lat. $22^{\circ} 17'$ S., Long. $26^{\circ} 45'$ W.—Angular distance from the comet's nucleus

to α Centauri $68^{\circ} 43'$. G.M.T. $6^{\text{h}} 56^{\text{m}} 24^{\text{s}}$;
to Antares $58^{\circ} 51'$. G.M.T. $7^{\text{h}} 2^{\text{m}} 24^{\text{s}}$.

March 11, 4 A.M., Lat. $21^{\circ} 40'$ S., Long. $27^{\circ} 9'$ W.—Angular distance from the comet's nucleus

to α Centauri $70^{\circ} 25'$. G.M.T. $6^{\text{h}} 8^{\text{m}} 15^{\text{s}}$;
to Antares $59^{\circ} 56'$. G.M.T. $6^{\text{h}} 3^{\text{m}} 25^{\text{s}}$;
to Altair $37^{\circ} 39'$.

The comet appeared to be brighter this morning, and bearing about E. by S. $\frac{1}{2}$ S. (true.)

March 12, 4 A.M., Lat. $20^{\circ} 57'$ S., Long. $27^{\circ} 5'$ W.—Comet has a larger and brighter appearance. Angular distance from comet's nucleus

to Antares $61^{\circ} 11'$. G.M.T. $6^{\text{h}} 42^{\text{m}} 30^{\text{s}}$;
to α Centauri $72^{\circ} 12'$. G.M.T. $6^{\text{h}} 48^{\text{m}} 10^{\text{s}}$;
to Altair $36^{\circ} 42'$. G.M.T. $6^{\text{h}} 55^{\text{m}} 30^{\text{s}}$.

March 14, 4 A.M., Lat. $19^{\circ} 55'$ S., Long. $27^{\circ} 5'$ W.—Comet seen again. The tail appears to be curving more to the S.W. Angular distance from comet's nucleus

to Antares $63^{\circ} 27'$. G.M.T. $6^{\text{h}} 39^{\text{m}} 40^{\text{s}}$;
to α Centauri $75^{\circ} 36'$. G.M.T. $6^{\text{h}} 44^{\text{m}} 25^{\text{s}}$;
to Altair $35^{\circ} 0'$. G.M.T. $6^{\text{h}} 50^{\text{m}} 44^{\text{s}}$.

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March 15, 4 A.M., Lat. $18^{\circ} 31'$ S., Long. $27^{\circ} 28'$ W.—Angular distance from comet's nucleus

- to Antares $64^{\circ} 51'$. G.M.T. $6^{\text{h}} 22^{\text{m}} 43^{\text{s}}$;
- to α Centauri $77^{\circ} 14'$. G.M.T. $6^{\text{h}} 29^{\text{m}} 44^{\text{s}}$;
- to Altair $34^{\circ} 20'$. G.M.T. $6^{\text{h}} 39^{\text{m}} 53^{\text{s}}$.

March 17, 4.30 A.M., Lat. $14^{\circ} 1'$ S., Long. $28^{\circ} 3'$ W. (by interpolation)—Angular distance from comet's nucleus

- to Antares $67^{\circ} 26'$. G.M.T. $6^{\text{h}} 43^{\text{m}} 3^{\text{s}}$;
- to α Centauri $80^{\circ} 35'$. G.M.T. $6^{\text{h}} 50^{\text{m}} 58^{\text{s}}$;
- to Altair $33^{\circ} 3'$. G.M.T. $6^{\text{h}} 57^{\text{m}} 35^{\text{s}}$.

The comet's nucleus appeared to be brighter, and also to vary in brightness. The tail looked lighter and thinner.

March 22, 4 A.M., Lat. $1^{\circ} 59'$ S., Long. $28^{\circ} 49'$ W. (by interpolation)—Comet seen again. Angular distance from the nucleus

- to Antares $73^{\circ} 50'$. G.M.T. $6^{\text{h}} 18^{\text{m}} 44^{\text{s}}$;
- to α Centauri $88^{\circ} 35'$. G.M.T. $6^{\text{h}} 25^{\text{m}} 31^{\text{s}}$;
- to Altair $31^{\circ} 27'$. G.M.T. $6^{\text{h}} 32^{\text{m}} 56^{\text{s}}$.

March 24, 4 A.M., Lat. $0^{\circ} 39'$ N., Long. $29^{\circ} 38'$ W. (by interpolation)—Angular distance from comet's nucleus

- to Antares $76^{\circ} 26'$. G.M.T. $6^{\text{h}} 59^{\text{m}} 10^{\text{s}}$;
- to Altair $31^{\circ} 27'$. G.M.T. $7^{\text{h}} 3^{\text{m}} 51^{\text{s}}$.

Observations corrected for index error only.